

House Resolution 935

By: Representatives Coleman of the 144th, Ralston of the 7th, Ray of the 136th, Houston of the 170th, Parrish of the 156th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Joanna Troutman; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Joanna Troutman was born on February 19, 1818, in Crawford County,
- 3 Georgia, and was the daughter of Hiram Baldwin Troutman; and
- 4 WHEREAS, in 1835 a band of stalwart Georgians formed the Georgia Brigade and traveled
- 5 to Texas under the command of Colonel William Ward in response to an appeal for aid by
- 6 Texas as it fought for independence from Mexico; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Joanna Troutman designed and made a flag of white silk, bearing a blue,
- 8 five-pointed star and two inscriptions: "Texas and Liberty" on the obverse, and in Latin:
- 9 "Where Liberty dwells there is my country," on the reverse; and
- 10 WHEREAS, she presented the flag to the Georgia Battalion and it was unfurled at Velasco
- 11 on January 8, 1836, above the Americana Hotel; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the flag was carried to Goliad where James W. Fanin, Jr., raised it when he
- 13 heard the Texas Declaration of Independence; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the flag was accidentally torn to shreds, but its tattered remnants flew above
- 15 the battle signifying the first flag to fly over free Texas; and
- 16 WHEREAS, in 1839, Joanna married S. L. Pope and moved to Elmwood, a plantation near
- 17 Knoxville, Georgia; and
- 18 WHEREAS, in 1875, following the death of her first husband, she married W. G. Vinson,
- 19 a member of the Georgia General Assembly; and

1 WHEREAS, she died in 1879, but in 1913, Honorable Oscar B. Colquitt, Governor of
2 Texas, and also a Georgia native, received permission for her remains to be interred in the
3 Texas State Cemetery in Austin; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1919, a bronze sculpture designed by Pompeo L. Coppini depicting a girl
5 sewing was erected to honor the memory of that Texas patriot; and

6 WHEREAS, her portrait hangs in the Texas state capitol; and

7 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this native daughter of Georgia, whose
8 memory is so revered in Texas, be appropriately recognized.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
10 the members of this body commend Joanna Troutman for her steller service on behalf of the
11 cause of liberty and for designing the first flag of the State of Texas.